

CEYLON *Today*

Polish P. M.'s Visit

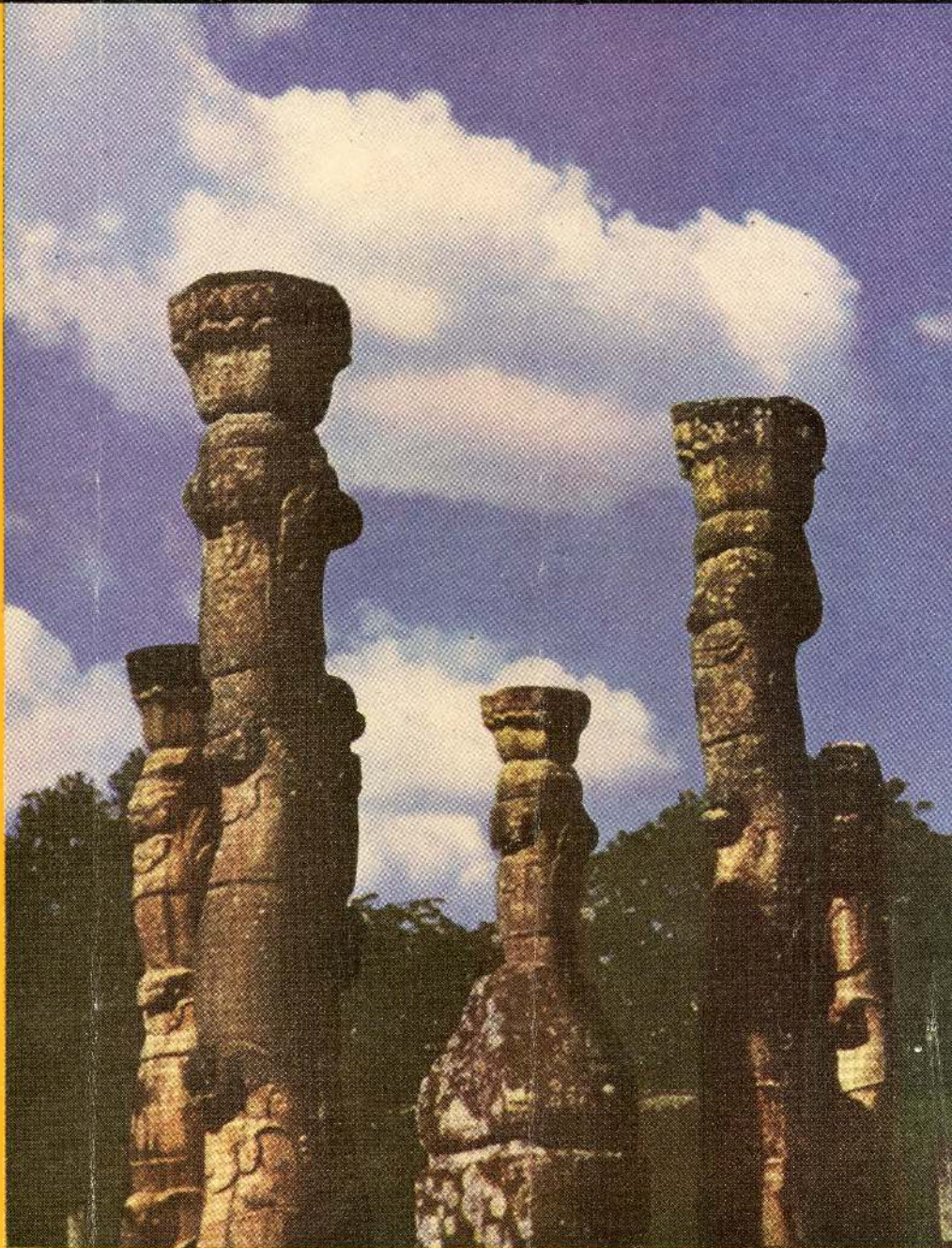
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OCTOBER, 1960

CEYLON

Today

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Polish Prime Minister's Visit

THE Prime Minister of Poland, Mr. Jozef Cyrankiewicz and his wife Nina Cyrankiewicz arrived in Ceylon on September 27th on a five-day visit as guests of the Ceylon Government. The Prime Minister and his wife, who were accompanied by a party of ten others including the Polish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, left the Island on October 1st.

During his stay here the Prime Minister visited the Dalada Maligawa, Kandy, the University of Ceylon and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya. He also paid his respects to the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, by visiting Horagolla and laying a wreath at the Samadhi of the late Mr. Bandaranaike.

On his arrival at the Ratmalana airport the distinguished visitor was greeted by Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Minister of Home Affairs. Anura, the son of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, garlanded Mr. Cyrankiewicz, and Miss Kumari Ilangaratne, daughter of the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, presented a bouquet of orchids to Madame Cyrankiewicz. The

visiting Premier then inspected a Guard of Honour given by the Ceylon Army.

After greeting Mrs. Bandaranaike, Members of the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps and other V. I. Ps, the Prime Minister made a short statement. He said:—

"We are filled with joy by the fact that thanks to the kind invitation of the Prime Minister, Madame Bandaranaike, we are able to come into direct touch with the people of Ceylon, with her top leaders, with the beauty of your land.

"During these few days we shall have the opportunity to learn more about your country known to us from its contribution to the great cause of liberation of Asia from colonial oppression, a country with which, despite many thousand miles distance, we have so many bonds.

"The cordial reception accorded to us today will long remain in our memories. In answering it I would like to state that we are setting feet on your soil full of best wishes to the residents of your country, full of respect for their efforts to develop their country economically to raise the standard of living, for their customs and the ancient culture.



◀ Mrs. Bandaranaike receives the Polish Premier at Ratmalana Airport

Mrs. Bandaranaike with her son, Anura, shortly after he had garlanded the Polish Premier on arrival

▼

"We arrive in your country just a year after your tragedy, the assassination of the Prime Minister, Bandaranaike. When you were paying homage to him yesterday our thoughts were with you; we shared your grief. The late Prime Minister's ideals are, nevertheless, living, and are being given real shape by the hands of his successors.

"Our countries represent different social and political systems; they are situated on different continents; their histories and cultural traditions differ. Nonetheless, over the recent years, their voices have concurred when dealing with the problems of the struggle for peace and for the solution of all international problems through negotiations, and in the problem of the elimination of the colonial system. Can there be, in the world of today, anything more essential?

"The policy of peace and neutrality conducted by the Government of Ceylon has been accorded full support by our country.





Mrs. Bandaranaike and Madame Nina Cyrankiewicz at the Ratmalana Airport

The same objective—consolidation of peace—is the basic guidance of both our countries. Whereas the main interest of your country consists in the developments in Asia, Poland's attention is focussed, first of all, on the situation in Europe, on questions relating to her peace. But one cannot speak of 'your' Asia and 'our' Europe. The world we are living in is common and it is the common interests and common dangers that unite the remotest countries.

"I am deeply convinced that our visit will promote further development of relations and will bring closer the opinions of our two countries and in so doing will contribute to the consolidation of peace in Asia, in Europe and all over the world.

"Long live Polish-Ceylonese friendship. Long live peace."

The Prime Minister and party were then driven in state to Queen's House where they were received by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke. Shortly afterwards Mr. Cyrankiewicz called on the Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, at "Temple Trees". That night a banquet was held at "Temple Trees" by the Prime Minister of Ceylon in honour of the visiting Premier and his wife.

The next morning Mr. Cyrankiewicz visited Horagolla. He later called on the President of the Senate, Sir Cyril de Zoysa, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. R. S. Pelpola, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dudley Senanayake. While the Prime Minister was calling on them, Madame Cyrankiewicz paid a visit to the Lanka Mahila Samithi Training Centre at Kaduwela. She was also taken on a sight-seeing tour of the Colombo city and the outskirts including a visit to the Mount Lavinia Hotel and the Dehiwela Zoo.

That afternoon Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, Minister of Transport and Works, and Mr. Maithripala Senanayake called on the Prime Minister at Queen's House. That same evening the two Prime Ministers, Mr. Cyrankiewicz and Mrs. Bandaranaike, held discussions at "Temple Trees". Officials of both the Polish and Ceylon Governments were present at these discussions. A reception was given by the visiting Prime Minister at the Galle Face Hotel that night.

Visit to Kandy

The Polish Prime Minister and party left for Kandy the next morning. At the entrance



Shortly after her arrival in Colombo, the Polish Premier's wife meets Mrs. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, wife of Ceylon's Finance Minister

to the Peradeniya bridge they were met by the Mayor and M. P. for Kandy, Mr. E. L. Senanayake, the Government Agent of Kandy, Mr. A. B. S. N. Pullenayagum, the M. P. for Senkadagala, Mr. Shelton Ranaraja, and the first M. P. for Akurana, Mr. D. G. H. Sirisena. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake accompanied the Prime Minister during this trip.

After the official welcome the party left for King's Pavilion, Kandy, from where they drove to the Hantana Tea Estate. Here the Prime Minister was conducted round the factory and explained the various processes which went into the manufacture of tea from

the green leaf stage. Both the Prime Minister and Madame Cyrankiewicz showed keen interest in the manufacture of tea. Later in the day the Prime Minister visited the Dalada Maligawa where he donated Rs. 150 to the Maligawa Fund. From the Maligawa they drove off to Katugastota where they watched elephants bathing.

Addressing University students at Peradeniya that same evening Mr. Cyrankiewicz said that he was convinced that the bonds of understanding and of brotherhood that joined the students of many countries were far stronger than those that bound the



The Polish visitors at Horagolla

people of different generations. He said that the youth of Poland were full of enthusiasm, love and determination to go forward and develop industries and all other fields. He earnestly wished that the youth of Ceylon too would help their country in the same manner.

At the University, on display were nearly one hundred books presented by Poland to the University of Ceylon. The Polish Premier said that the gift was a small memento of his visit.

The next day, after a brief visit to the Botanic Gardens and the Kandyan Art Association, the Prime Minister left for Colombo. A joint communique was signed that evening by the two Prime Ministers at the Senate Office. A reception was held in

honour of the distinguished visitor by the Governor-General at Queen's House that night.

Press Conference

On Saturday morning (October 1st) the Polish Premier held a Press Conference at "Temple Trees". At this conference he announced that Mrs. Bandaranaike had accepted his invitation to visit Poland. "We have left it to her to fix a date and we are looking forward to the visit," he observed.

He added that they had a great friendly feeling for the people of Ceylon. He admired the policies of Ceylon which were similar to the policies of Poland—peace and co-existence.

The Polish visitors at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya





◀ Entering the shrine room of the temple of the Tooth, Kandy, with an offering of flowers

▼ The Polish Premier and his wife sit on the feet of an elephant, at Kandy

At the Press Conference the Prime Minister answered among others questions on Poland's attitude to the United Nations and the Catholic Church.

A joint luncheon was given to the Prime Minister that afternoon by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at the Parliament Hall in the House of Representatives.

The Prime Minister and party left Ceylon that evening by plane. Speaking before he boarded the plane at Ratmalana, he thanked the Prime Minister of Ceylon and the people for the wonderful reception they had given.

Joint communique

The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and the Prime Minister of Poland, Mr. Jozef Cyrankiewicz, in a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the latter's visit to the Island, expressed the





The Prime Ministers of Poland and Ceylon at the Joint Luncheon given by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

view that the present session of the U. N. General Assembly could play an important role in the relaxation of international tension and in reaching substantial progress towards general disarmament.

The joint communique states :

“At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mrs. Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People’s Republic of Poland, Jozef Cyrankiewicz, paid a visit to Ceylon from September 27th to October 1st, 1960.

“On his visit to Ceylon the Chairman of the Council of Ministers was accompanied by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marian Naszkowski, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Janusz Burakiewicz.

“The Chairman of the Council of Ministers was received by the Governor-General,

His Excellency Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, paid a call on the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, and met members of the Government as well as other distinguished personalities of Ceylon.

“During his sojourn in Ceylon the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People’s Republic of Poland and his party saw some historical sites which bear witness to the richness of Ceylon’s culture, and visited certain economic projects where he had the opportunity to acquaint himself with the progress made by the Ceylonese peoples in the development of their country.

“The Polish Prime Minister and accompanying persons have been accorded cordial hospitality by the Government and by the population of Ceylon.

“The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, held talks with the Chairman



The Prime Minister of Poland and the Ceylon Premier sign the Joint Communique

of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Poland, Jozef Cyrankiewicz. Participating in these talks were on the Ceylon side :

The Honourable C. P. de Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power.

The Honourable Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance.

The Honourable T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping.

The Honourable M. Senanayake, Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs.

Mr. M. F. de S. Jayaratne, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence and External Affairs.

Mr. H. E. Tennekoon, Additional Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping.

on the Polish side :

His Excellency Mr. Marian Naszkowski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency Mr. Janusz Burakiewicz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade.

His Excellency Dr. Juliusz Katz-Suchy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ceylon.

His Excellency Mr. Zygfryd Wolniak, Head of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Marian Stradowski, Counsellor of the Polish Embassy in Ceylon.

“In the talks which proceeded in an atmosphere of sincere friendship and mutual understanding, both Prime Ministers stated with satisfaction that the relations between Ceylon and Poland have been developing to the benefit of both nations and constitute their common contribution to the cause of peaceful international co-operation.

“Regarding economic relations both Prime Ministers stated that there are possibilities for substantial expansion both of trade and of scientific and technical co-operation. They expressed their interest to further strengthen Ceylonese-Polish economic relations in the future.

“Reviewing international problems, the Prime Ministers of Ceylon and Poland expressed their conviction that the only way to dispel the existing tensions and to remove the danger of war which in the age of nuclear and rocket weapons would mean complete destruction, is to base relations among all nations on principles of peaceful co-existence. Both Prime Ministers expressed themselves against the use of force in international relations and in favour of solving all controversial problems through negotiations.

“They consider it necessary for all countries to increase their efforts for safeguarding the peace and solution of the most urgent problems of the present time, i.e., the universal and general disarmament. Therefore, they are of the view that the 15th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, attended by several heads of states and leading statesman, can play an important

role in the relaxation of the international situation and in reaching substantial progress towards general disarmament.

“The Prime Ministers of Ceylon and Poland give their full support to the idea of meetings and talks among leaders of different countries and they are convinced that world problems cannot be decided without taking into account the voices of the peoples of Asia and Africa.

Both Prime Ministers expressed their conviction that the People's Republic of China should finally find its rightful place in the United Nations Organisation.

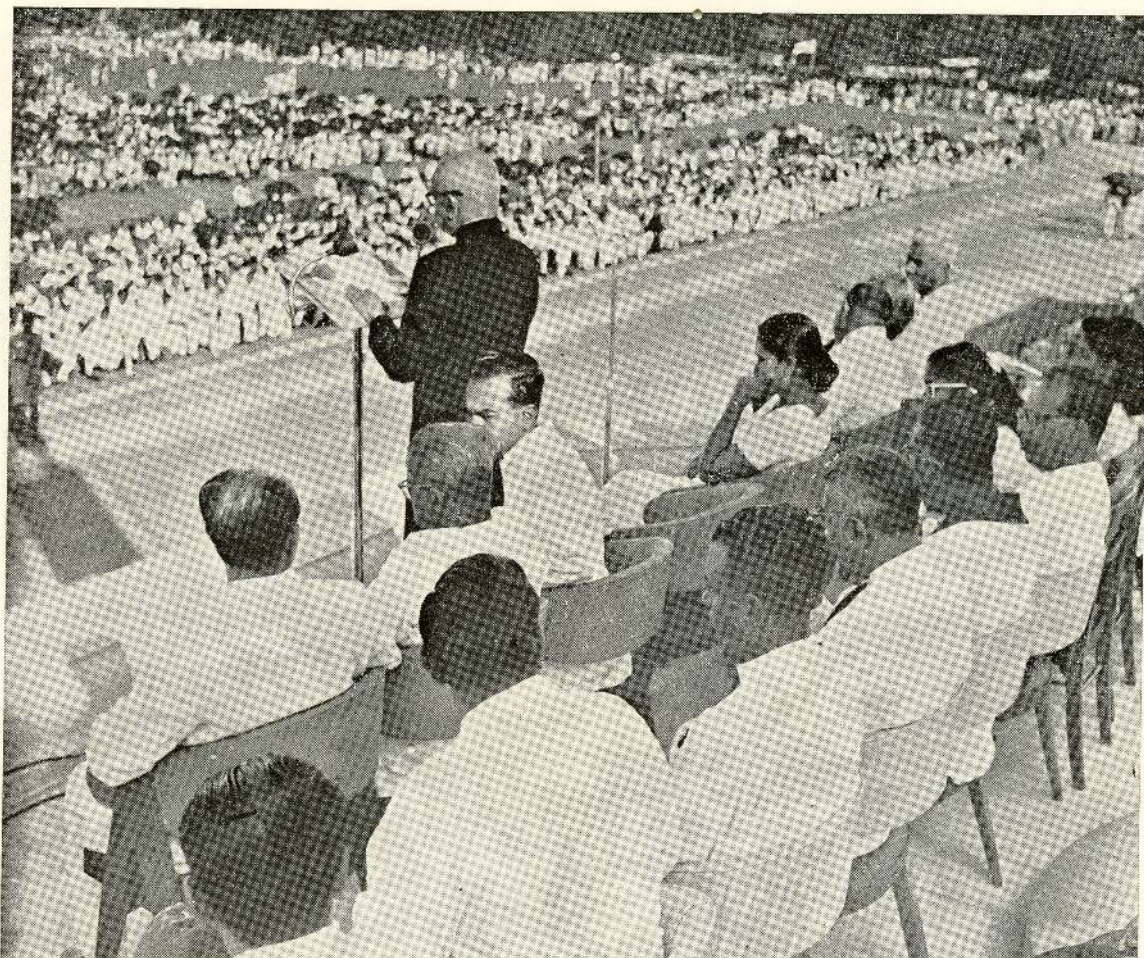
Both Prime Ministers extended their full support to the peoples struggling for their liberation from colonial oppression and they welcome the emergence of a number of independent states in Africa.

“Both Prime Ministers also discussed questions relating to the security of Europe and Asia. The Prime Minister of Poland acquainted the Prime Minister of Ceylon with the Polish point of view on the problems posed by re-armament of West Germany.

“Both Prime Ministers agreed that the present visit of the Polish Prime Minister to Ceylon as well as the talks held by them will contribute to a further strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between their two countries to the benefit of their peoples and to world peace.

“The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mrs. Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, was asked by the Polish Prime Minister to visit Poland at a convenient time. The invitation has been accepted with gratification.

“Done at Colombo on this Thirtieth day of September One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.”



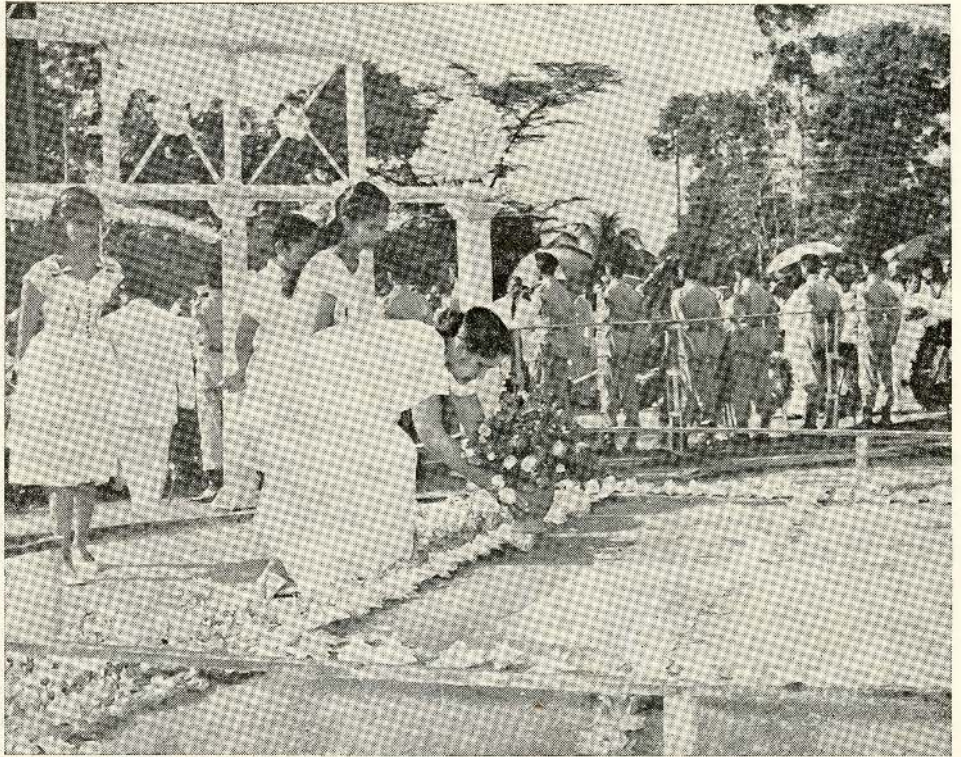
The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, addressing the Public Meeting held at Independence Square on Bandaranaike Commemoration Day, September 26

The Nation Pays Tribute

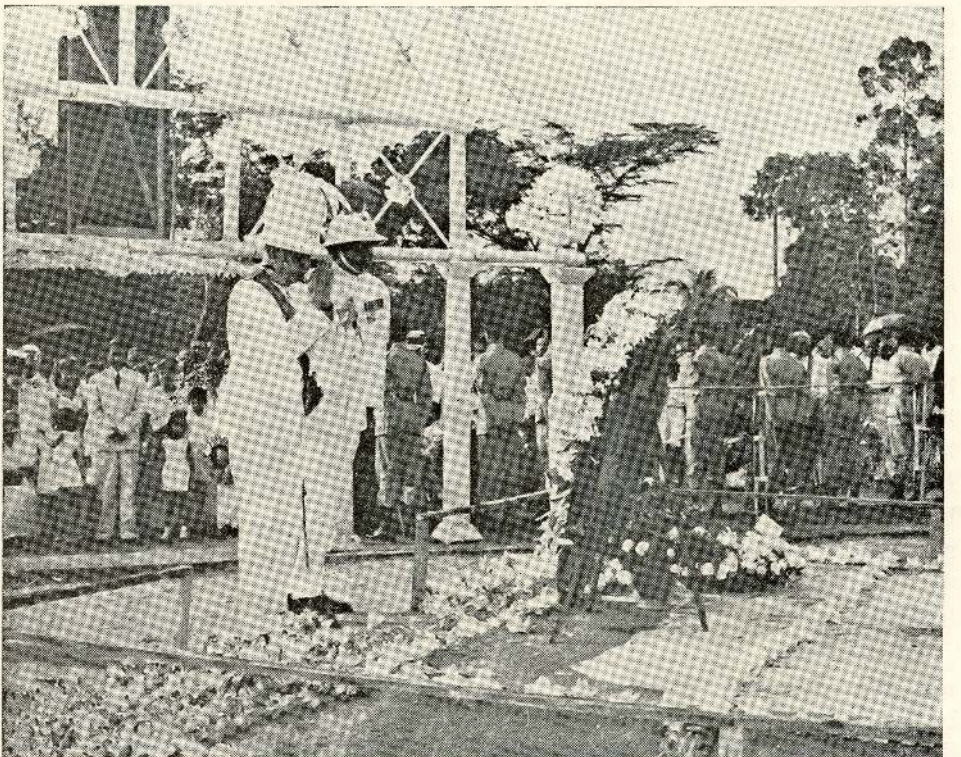
CEYLON paid tribute to the memory of her revered leader, the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, on Monday, September 26, 1960. The occasion was the first anniversary of the death of the former Prime Minister. Throughout the country, memorial meetings were held and special services were organized in temples. *Pirith* ceremonies and alms-givings also marked the day. White flags were flown over all Government offices and many private establishments. In schools,

special assemblies of students were held and tributes paid to the late Premier. The day was observed throughout Ceylon as a public, mercantile, bank and school holiday.

At Horagolla, a simple wreath-laying ceremony was held against a solemn background of thousands of white-clad men, women and children. The ceremony began at 7.55 a.m. with two minutes' silence heralded by the beat of muffled drums and ending with the sounding of the "Last Post".



▶ Mrs. Bandaranaike and her children place their tribute (a vase of red roses) at Horagolla



▶ The Governor-General pays his respects at Horagolla to the late Premier

At the end of the "Last Post" wreaths were laid by Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and members of the family followed by His Excellency the Governor-General; the President of the Senate; the Speaker; Chairman; Cabinet Sub-Committee, Bandaranaike Memorial; Cabinet Ministers; and diplomats.

A public meeting in the evening at Independence Square, attended by thousands of people, brought the official ceremonies to a close.

The proceedings commenced with the observance of *Pansil* which was followed by two minutes' silence by all those present. The distinguished visitors, including the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, her children, Cabinet Ministers, Judges of the Supreme Court and Members of Parliament were accommodated in the special rostrum.

The Minister of Health, Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya, addressing the gathering said that the greatness of Mr. Bandaranaike was due to the fact that he was the first Ceylonese politician to realize that political freedom was not complete without economic freedom. He said that Mr. Bandaranaike used his high political achievements to serve the country and especially the common man. His ideal was a United Lanka, despising factionalism and religious disharmony.

Dr. H. W. Thambiah, speaking on behalf of the Tamil community, said that the Tamils were grateful to the late lamented leader for the various acts of kindness shown by him to them. Dr. Thambiah said that the late Prime Minister took a personal interest in rehabilitating the poor peasants in the North and East during the last major flood. His capabilities were evident from the remarkable speeches that he made and the diplomacy he showed at international meetings.

The Minister of Education and Broadcasting, Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, speaking on behalf of the Muslim community, said that the late Prime Minister dedicated his entire

life to the cause of the common man. He gave up his aristocratic life and donned the cloth and banian to serve the common man.

In recalling his connections with the late Prime Minister as far back as 1925, Mr. Mahmud said that Mr. Bandaranaike was devoted profoundly to the Buddhist way of life. He also said that he was one of the close associates of the late Prime Minister, who was instrumental in forming the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. Although the late Prime Minister was no more with them yet his ideals and principles remained to inspire the country. During the Government of the late Prime Minister much was done for the welfare of the Muslim community than that done by any other previous government.

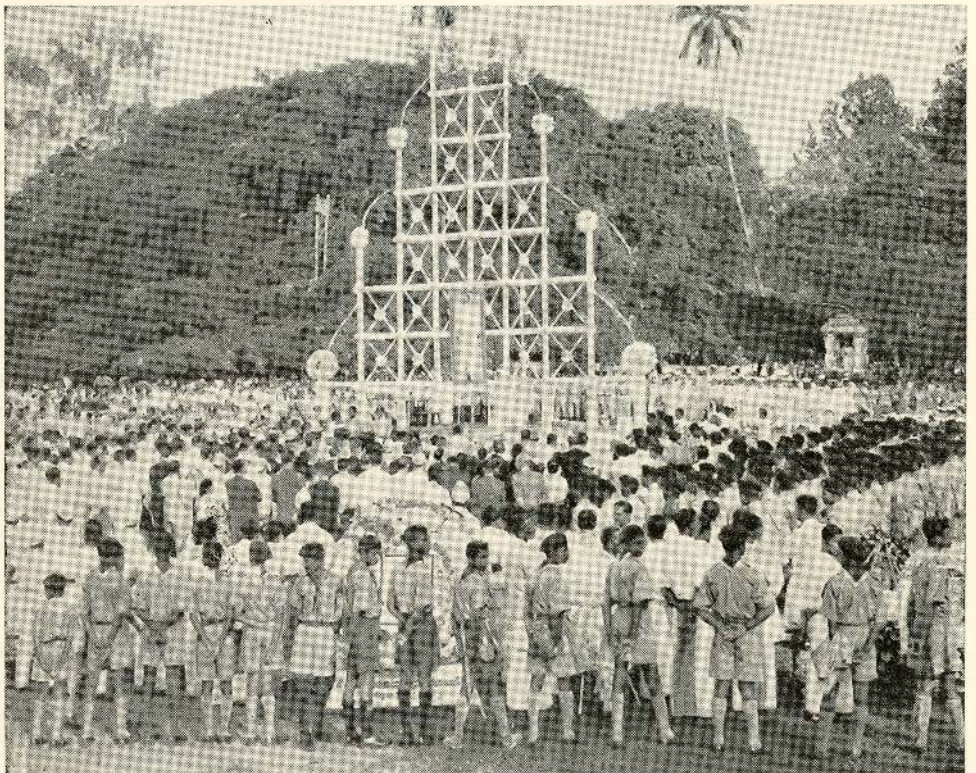
The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, who presided over the public meeting, described that day as a day of remembrance and a day of great sadness. By Mr. Bandaranaike's death, Ceylon had lost one of her greatest sons in her long history. As an orator and as a parliamentarian, Mr. Bandaranaike was the equal of the best in the world. In international affairs, although the leader of only 10 million people, he was rapidly reaching the small group of world leaders whose views influence all human happiness and endeavour.

Sir Oliver went on to say that Mr. Bandaranaike had subordinated his own personal interests and given of his wealth to serve his country. In everything he did and said, he shed a brilliant lustre. It was our great misfortune that he did not live long enough to complete the work that he started and to realize his most cherished desires. Mr. Bandaranaike made his life a living example of simplicity. Today we saw the whole nation, as it were, turning over to that simple way of life. He lived a life free from avarice and hatred, sublimated by service to his people. He died free from fear and craving, and with compassion to all. We would always remember the great part he played in his country over a period of thirty

▶ The Governor-General and the Prime Minister listening to the chanting of pirith at Horagolla on the morning of September 26



▶ A section of the crowd which gathered at Horagolla on September 26 for ceremonies connected with Bandaranaike Commemoration Day



years, first in the struggle for political freedom, then as a national leader and social reformer.

Day of Thanksgiving

The Governor-General added that that day must also be a day of thanksgiving. Twelve months ago our Prime Minister had been assassinated. There had been two Parliamentary General Elections in that period. But, despite all those stresses and strains, complete law and order had prevailed throughout the land. There had been neither communal nor religious disturbances. The two large nationalised undertakings—Port Cargo and Bus Transport—had functioned without a breakdown. Our production of tea, rubber, coconut and paddy had maintained its upward trend. The administration of justice public administration and the procuring and distribution of essential food had been fully maintained. Today the Government of this country was in the hands of a party with an overall majority in Parliament. The rule of Parliament and the rule of law would prevail in Sri Lanka.

But above all, said Sir Oliver, that day and every succeeding anniversary of that national day must be a festival of dedication to serve our land. The late Prime Minister Bandaranaike stood throughout his life for certain causes. He stood for making good the neglect of Buddhism over five centuries of foreign rule. He meant no harm to other religions. He worked ceaselessly to give the Sinhala language its proper place in our land. He spared no effort to restore our national culture. He knew how closely Buddhism, Sinhala and our national culture are woven together to form an indispensable base for the progress of our people. He stood for simplicity in living. He swept away, almost with impatience, everything that had even the appearance of an infringement on our sovereignty. He wanted Ceylon to win the friendship of all the peoples who fill the world. Since 1956, fifteen Heads of State and

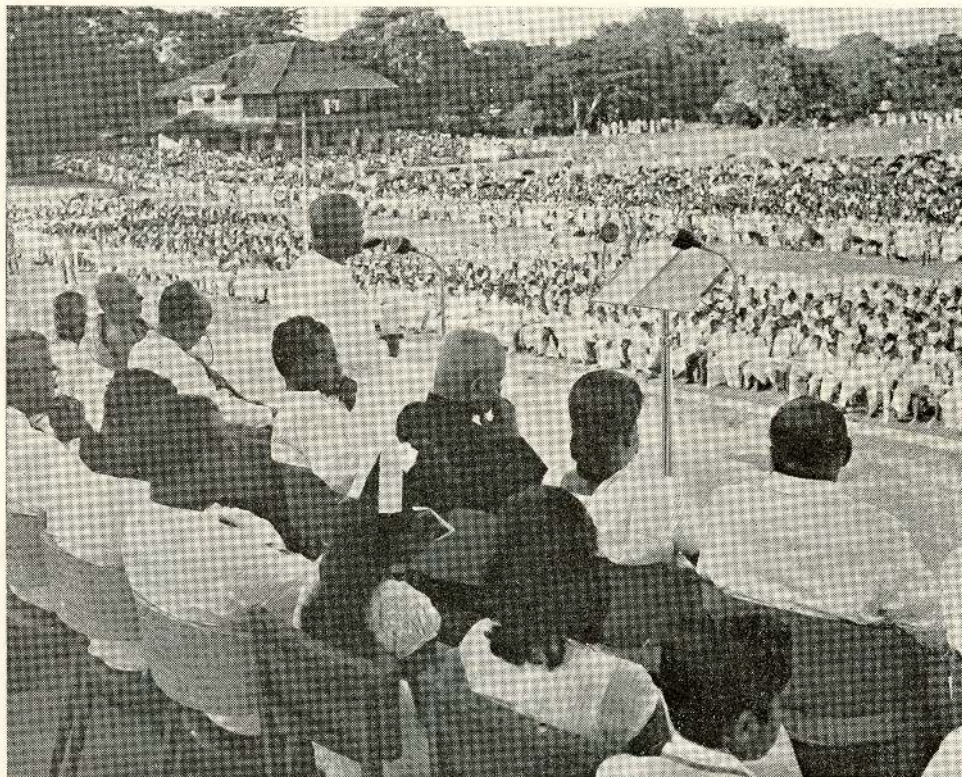
Prime Ministers had visited Ceylon. He saw thirty-eight nations accredited to Ceylon. His purpose in all this was only one. It was to win the fight against poverty, unemployment and under-employment in his own land.

Thanking the representatives of other nations for their presence there that day, Sir Oliver said that at times like that when great problems faced our country, we must turn to our friends. Our allies in World War II would not forget that this little land gave them total support. We sacrificed nearly the whole of one of our major plantation industries. We received neither reparations, rehabilitation costs, nor our full dues. Certain other nations would remember that, with the cease-fire, we gave them "most-favoured-nation" treatment, and that we were in the forefront of those pleading for humane peace treaties. He said: "Please judge us by our record in the twelve years of our independence. We have hurt none. We cannot demand either friendship or assistance from Sovereign States. I do submit to them, however, that we continue to deserve their generous friendship. We do not ask for assistance to build up armies, navies and air-fleets. We ask for help to reduce the poverty and misery that stalk our land. To those who are already helping, we render our sincerest gratitude".

In New York

The Ceylonese community in New York, including delegates to the United Nations and members of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and their wives, attended a meeting held at the office of the Permanent Mission on September 26, 1960, to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Bandaranaike.

The meeting was presided over by His Excellency Sir Claude Corea and was addressed by the Honourable Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, Indian Minister of Defence, Mrs. Mary Lord, Delegate of the United States to the United Nations General



Senator A. P. Jayasuriya speaking at the Bandaranaike Commemoration Day Public Meeting held in Independence Square, Colombo, on September 26

Assembly, and His Excellency Dr. G. P. Malalasekara, Ceylon Ambassador to the Soviet Union and member of the Ceylon Delegation.

Sir Claude Corea recalled that both Mr. Menon and Mrs. Lord were present one year ago at the Memorial Meeting held at this Mission soon after the death of Mr. Bandaranaike last year. He also recalled his close connections with the late Premier, commencing from the time Mr. Bandaranaike returned to Ceylon after his studies in England, which enabled him to realize his true greatness. Born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, he nevertheless renounced the path of comfort, ease and luxury which lay glittering before him, and chose the path of service, dedicating himself to work for the welfare of his people.

From this time on he did not turn back and, Sir Claude continued, he had no regrets for he had heard and had answered his country's call. He was a man of the people,

knew the people and loved them and worked for them till his life was cut short by the cowardly assassin's hand. When he died, everyone bowed his head in sorrowful silence. It could truly be said of him that "the tear of universal grief bedewed his honoured bier".

Though dead a year ago, his memory would live on in the hearts and minds of a grateful people and his spirit would guide and inspire his followers for many more years to come. It was this inspiration no doubt, Sir Claude concluded, which helped our present Prime Minister, his widow, to win a great electoral victory and to carry so capably the arduous responsibilities of her high office. He hoped that Mr. Bandaranaike's memory would continue to inspire and guide his people.

People's Problems

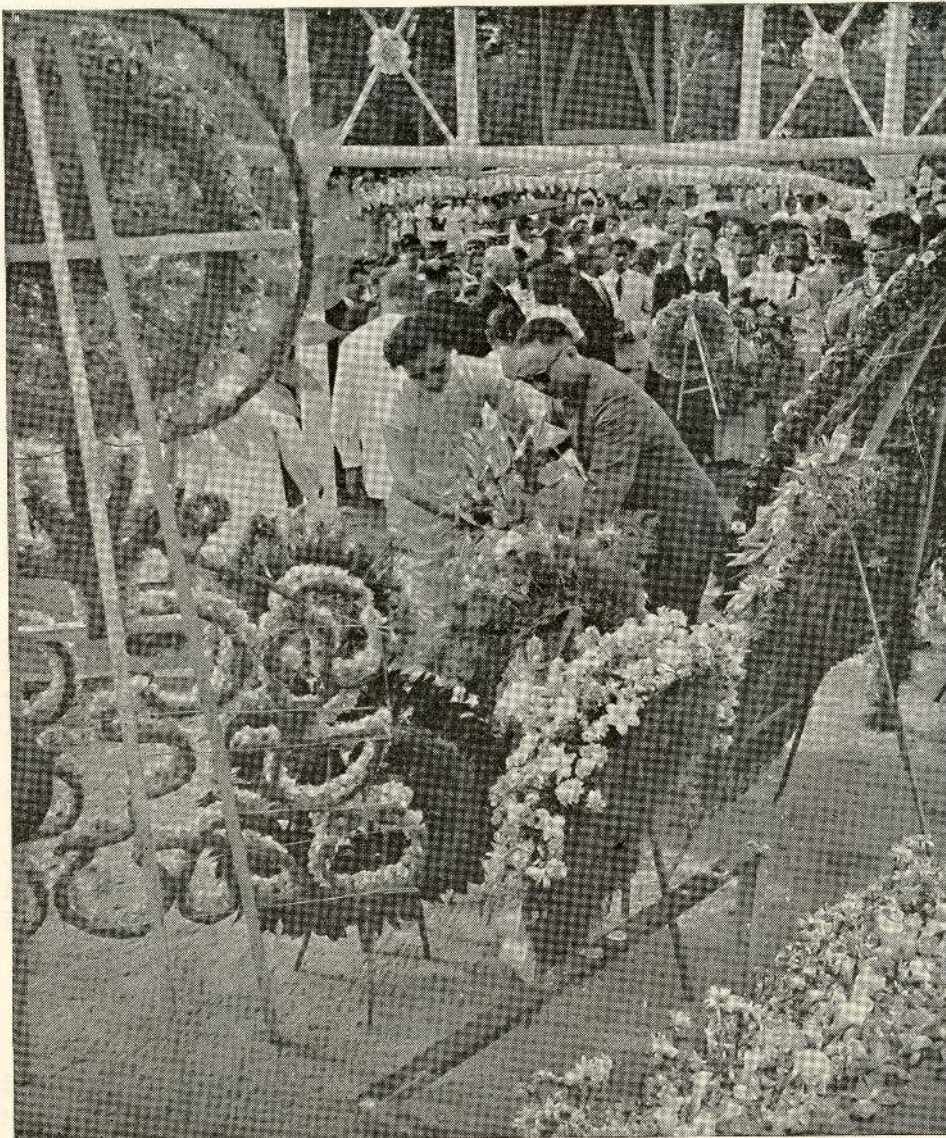
Addressing the meeting, Mrs. Lord said that she was fully aware of the important

part played by Mrs. Bandaranaike during the premiership of her husband. Mrs. Bandaranaike was a wife who had helped her husband in the greatest manner she could by interpreting and bringing to him the problems of the people.

Mrs. Lord added that Mr. Bandaranaike was fortunate in that he had by his side someone who had always taken a great interest in problems of health, education and welfare, and had a good grasp of inter-

national affairs. Similarly, Ceylon was fortunate in having in its present leader someone who was so close to the people and knew their problems so well.

The next speaker was Dr. G. P. Malalasekara who said that all Ceylonese honoured Mr. Bandaranaike greatly and loved him dearly. He had been a great man in freeing himself from the shackles of conservatism, and his vision, kindness and tolerance had won for Ceylon the friendship of all the



The Chinese
Ambassador and
his wife placing a
wreath at Horagolla
on Bandaranaike
Commemoration
Day

peoples of the world. Dr. Malalasekara continued that it was a cause of great sadness that Mr. Bandaranaike was not alive today when his presence at the United Nations could have helped the cause of mankind. Quoting a Pali proverb, "The bodies of men die and decay but the inspiration of their lives persist", Dr. Malalasekara said that the truth of this statement was proved when the people of Ceylon returned Mrs. Bandaranaike's Party to power to carry out the formulated policies of her husband. The election of a first woman Prime Minister was witness to the greatness and glories of Ceylon's culture which for twenty-five centuries had never discriminated against women.

Sir Claude Corea then called upon India's Minister of Defence, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, whom he described as "one of India's greatest and illustrious leaders". Mr. Menon recalled his first meeting with Mr. Bandaranaike at a time when "neither of us was so respectable". Mr. Bandaranaike had rejected the luxury to which he had been born because he was fundamentally an honest man.

Speaking, he said, as a very recent visitor to Ceylon, he felt that it was not widely

known that the present Prime Minister had been very properly trained as a leader, for "Mr. Bandaranaike had built better than he knew". The truth of this lay in the fact that his death had created no void in leadership. It was also not often that a Party Prime Minister, who had held office for a few years in a Parliamentary democracy, became such a great national figure.

Mr. Menon observed that while the earlier struggle for independence was conducted mainly by men from the large cities of Ceylon, today a new layer of democracy had been thrown up in the common man of Ceylon. All this was a tribute to the greatness of Mr. Bandaranaike, for young men were rising today to continue his good work, men who were "emotionally identified with the true Ceylon". Mr. Bandaranaike had indeed been "the Voice of the People".

Mr. Menon concluded with the observation that while Ceylon and India had had a few differences in the past, never had they been anything other than two close-knit members of one family. He congratulated Ceylon on the great progress she had made under Mr. Bandaranaike which he was assured would continue under the present Premier.

Measures for the Coming Year

[The Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, made his Budget Speech in the House of Representatives on August 15. We reproduce below extracts of some of the more important sections of the speech dealing with development work, etc., which will be implemented in the course of the coming financial year.]

It was the Government of the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike which first attempted to lay down some deliberate and clear-cut policy in regard to the industrial development of the country. It was recognized that the public sector would have to play a major role in this development, but the role of the private sector too was not ignored and the different spheres were demarcated with considerable clarity. The chief aim of this policy was the conservation and generation of sufficient foreign exchange which would ensure capital investment in industry at an increasing momentum.

In keeping with this policy, corporations were established for undertaking the investigation and establishment of such industrial ventures as would not merely save foreign exchange but could also do this as quickly as possible. Investigations were therefore carried out in regard to the establishment of industries for the refining of mineral sands, for the manufacture of iron and steel, fertilizer and rubber tyres and tubes, as well as of textiles and sugar, paper and chemicals. Corporations were also established to expand the manufacture of cement and salt.

Several of these industrial projects are nearing completion and will go into production very soon. The Sugar Factories at Gal Oya and Kantalai and the Chemicals Factory at Paranthan have already started production.

In the case of a number of the other projects the preliminary work has just been

completed. In the Estimates for next year, provision is being made for the next stage of development of these industrial projects.

Mineral Sands and Textiles

The Mineral Sands Corporation is to be provided with additional capital to complete its installations, and the Ilmenite Refinery is expected to go into production at the end of that period. This refinery will have a capacity for treating 100,000 tons of raw sands a year, producing substantial quantities of ilmenite, rutile and zircon, which would prove substantial foreign exchange earners.

The Textile Corporation will begin operating a spinning mill at Veyangoda early in the next financial year. Provision is being made for duplicating the spinning mill and for a weaving and finishing plant. This will result in considerable foreign exchange savings.

Project reports for the establishment of the Iron and Steel Factory, the Motor Car Tyre and Tube Factory and Nitrogenous Fertilizer Factory have been completed and our engineers are working on the preparation of plans and estimates.

There has been criticism of certain industrial enterprises undertaken by Government, on the ground of inefficient operation. As a result of an examination of the working of these industries it has been shown that greater efficiency can be achieved by improving manufacturing processes in individual plants, by the replacement of obsolete machinery and by substantial expansion necessary to make such projects not merely economically viable but also substantial earners of revenue for Government. Accordingly, provision has been made in the next year's Estimates for increasing cement production by the expansion of the Kankesan-turai Factory from its present capacity of

80,000 tons to 250,000 tons ; for the establishment of a second Cement Factory at Puttalam with an output of 200,000 tons per annum and for the installation of a Clinker Grinding Plant at Galle capable of producing another 200,000 tons. The expansion provided for is part of a major expansion programme, costing nearly Rs. 225 million, which is expected to be completed over a period of 3 to 4 years, at the end of which period Ceylon should be almost self-sufficient in her cement requirements.

Provision has also been made in the next year's Estimates for the expansion of the salt industry. Salt exports could earn substantial foreign exchange for the country. There is an overseas market for salt amounting to over 15 million tons valued at Rs. 1,500 million. Large foreign markets also exist for its by-products such as magnesium, bromine and borax. With a view to exploiting this very considerable resource, provision has been made in the Estimates for mechanizing the manufacture. It is hoped that a large quantity of salt will be available for export during the next year on completion of the first stage of the expansion undertaken by the corporation.

Ceramics Corporation

The Ceramics Corporation is also being provided with additional capital for expansion of its production. The initial venture ran into considerable difficulties and re-examination of the project by expert foreign consultants has indicated the need for a large measure of expansion both to make it an economically viable and efficient venture and to utilize the considerable resources of kaolin available in the country, for the refining of which a plant is also to be established.

Provision will also be made in the next year's Estimates for necessary improvements to and expansion of the Paper Factory in order to make it a going concern. Due to substantial improvements already undertaken in its manufacturing processes and

diversifying its products, the factory for the first time since its establishment has been able to make ends meet.

In order to encourage the private sector to participate in industrial development, and in keeping with Government policy, provision has also been made for completing the establishment of the Industrial Estate at Jaela, for loans to individual co-operative industrial ventures and for Government's participation along with the private capital in the establishment of small-scale and medium-scale consumer industries.

For the next financial year the provision made for new capital investment in industry is of the magnitude of Rs. 56.1 million as against a provision of Rs. 29.6 million in this year's Budget Estimates.

Small-scale Industries

The development of small-scale and cottage industries offers one of the quickest ways of increasing employment especially in the rural areas. It requires, however, that there should be a co-ordinated and directed policy. The proposal to establish a Small-scale and Cottage Industries Development Board is therefore now under consideration.

A scheme for providing easy credit facilities to those engaged in cottage and small-scale industries and also co-operative industrial societies will be considered. As an initial step, provision is made for the establishment of a scheme of supervised credit under special staff in the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries. Proposals are also under consideration for the supply on a hire-purchase system of machines, equipment and machine tools for those running small workshops or intending to set them up.

Special attention will also be paid to the establishment of central facilities plants to make available to craftsmen and industrial co-operatives mechanical processes which

they themselves cannot afford. The Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries has already set up such a plant for brass and silver craftsmen in the Kandy District, and provision has been made for the establishment of workshops to provide such facilities for smithy workers and tinkers.

Four mechanized brick-making units will also be established next year in order to give brick workers the training and experience necessary for the production of bricks on an increased scale.

Four mechanized pottery centres will also be established in the coming financial year. An additional mechanized workshop for manufacturing bamboo and rattan ware will also be established.

The expansion of the handloom textile industry will be encouraged by the consolidation of existing co-operative textile weavers' societies, the popularisation of home-weaving and the diversification of production. The development of the coir industry on which a large number of people, especially in the Southern Districts of Ceylon, depend for their livelihood will receive attention. Four more coir mat workshops will be established next year.

Development of Power

Power has an important role to play in regard to development in general and especially in regard to industrialization. The programme of development of sources of power is, therefore, to be continued at an increased rate in the next year.

Provision has been made for continuing Stage II B of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. The multi-purpose river basin projects, which I shall refer to later, are also expected to provide additional hydro-power supplies. Steps are being taken to install additional power plants to the extent of 4,000 Kw. in the

Jaffna Peninsula mainly to meet the increased power demands of the Cement Factory.

Rural electrification schemes have received considerable attention in the recent past and further schemes are to be undertaken next year.

One of the fundamental pre-requisites of agricultural development is that the cultivators should be assured of continuity of employment and of a sufficient share of the fruits of their labours. For it is only if these two requirements are satisfied that they will be ready to make an intensive effort to increase production. It is for this reason that a comprehensive revision of the Paddy Lands Act is to be undertaken immediately, and that, in the meantime, certain amendments of a limited character are to be adopted immediately to make the operation of that Act more effective. The extension of its sphere of operation is also under consideration.

Action is also being taken to ensure that the purpose of the Guaranteed Price Scheme, which is that it should benefit the primary producer, will be realized in practice. Abuses of the purchasing arrangements have occurred. Many of these abuses cannot be effectively dealt with under existing administrative arrangements and legislation is necessary. Such legislation, which will put the Government policy on guaranteed prices and assured markets on a legal basis, is already being prepared. The Agricultural Products (Guaranteed Price Scheme and Milling) Bill which will shortly be introduced in Parliament will ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the producer in full measure.

The Crop Insurance Scheme which presently functions on an administrative basis has been handicapped by the absence of the necessary legislation. Immediate steps will, therefore, be taken to place before this House the Crop Insurance Bill.

The will to work on the part of the cultivator is not sufficient in itself. He must be provided with adequate facilities for borrowing the necessary funds. One of the main purposes of the Co-operative and Rural Development Bank Bill which is under consideration is to develop agricultural credit. It is also necessary to continue to organize such supplementary activities as marketing on a co-operative basis, and in the next financial year much emphasis is to be given to the formation of Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies and to the expansion of their activities.

It is necessary, if maximum returns are to be obtained, to organize the agricultural unit so that it could operate in the most efficient manner. This is a crucial problem in our country. Colonization and settlement schemes provide the opportunity for families to cultivate the most efficient units. In the next financial year alienation under the major colonization schemes, where colonists are provided with irrigated paddy lots and housing lots mainly in the dry zone, will take place on a larger scale than in the past. This measure, it is hoped, will contribute significantly towards increasing the agricultural productivity of the Island and relieve the pressure of landlessness.

It is in the field of agriculture especially that progress can be made by the use of simple technical improvements. The increased use of fertilizers, better variety of seeds and improved methods of cultivation should result in marked increases in yield without involving a heavy capital expenditure.

The need to provide irrigation facilities which will enable the expansion of agricultural production is an urgent and compelling one. The emphasis now is on the overall development of river basins since this provides the opportunity for irrigation, flood-control and the generation of hydro-power. A systematic investigation of the major river basins is already under way. A team of

Soviet engineers is studying the development of the Kelani Ganga basin, while a team of U. S. engineers is investigating the Mahaweli Ganga basin in order to explore the possibility of diverting water by means of a dam and a series of tunnels to the Dry Zone of the North-Central Province.

The report on the Samanalawewa Multi-Purpose Scheme is being studied at present by the department and provision has been made in the Estimates for the preliminary work such as the setting up of camps and the construction of access roads.

A contract has been entered into for the preparation of detailed drawing and specifications for the headworks of the Udawalawe Multi-Purpose Scheme which is estimated to have a capacity of 230,000 acre-feet capable of irrigating 50,000 acres of new land and generating hydro-power.

The Estimates for the coming year include funds for a number of new schemes which will provide irrigation facilities for over 2,000 acres of additional land.

International trade plays a leading role in our economy. It is essential, therefore, that we should endeavour to maximize our earnings from our export commodities. The extent of our earnings depends on the volume of our exports and the prices they fetch in foreign markets. We cannot, of course, control foreign prices but we can increase our export earnings by expanding the volume of our exports. These measures are of urgent importance where tea, rubber and coconut are concerned, for it is from these three export commodities that we derive the greater part of our foreign exchange which we utilize to pay for our imports. It is proposed, therefore, to continue the replanting and rehabilitation programmes and to make them more vigorous and effective.

Colonization Schemes

The Highland colonization schemes are also of importance. Under these schemes land is

allocated in suitable units to peasant families for cultivation of tea, rubber and coconut. It is expected that in 1960-61 alienation on a larger scale than before will take place, so as to bring the available land into production as early as possible.

A considerable amount of our foreign exchange is spent each year on the import of fish. It is, necessary, therefore, to take urgent and effective action to develop our fishing industry. With this in view, the department is concentrating its attention on increasing the production of fish by the mechanization of the industry through the introduction of small mechanized fishing-boats. It is expected that 500 such boats will be added to the present fleet at an expenditure of Rs. 8½ million in 1960-61.

Plans are being finalized for the early establishment with Japanese aid of a Fisheries Training Centre at Negombo, which will conduct training courses for fishermen and mechanics.

The problem of providing sufficient housing for fishermen is also receiving attention, and a further 400 houses will be completed during the financial year 1960-61 at a cost of Rs. 1 million.

Developing Harbours

I have referred already to Ceylon's dependence on foreign trade. It is essential, therefore, that our ports which are the channels through which this trade is conducted should be improved and developed. It is for this reason that the advice of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was sought regarding the development of the Port of Colombo and the other major out ports. On the advice of the team sent out by the World Bank, the services of a firm of consultants are to be engaged for investigating and reporting on the port development proposals. The terms of reference for the consultants' investigations have been

settled by the World Bank, and it is expected that the investigations will commence early in the next financial year.

In the meantime, a scheme for the minor development of Galle Harbour is being proceeded with. The scheme is to be expanded to provide alongside berths which would enable larger vessels to be accommodated. Investigations will be undertaken for the provision of facilities at Kankasanturai Harbour for the principal purpose of meeting the requirements of the Kankesan Cement Corporation. If proper facilities are provided the corporation expects to make a substantial saving on the transport of oil by having the oil shipped direct to Kankasanturai.

With the increasing importance of air transport it is necessary to pay more attention to the development of aviation in this country than has been done hitherto. During the financial year it is expected to complete specifications and contract documents for a new international airport at Katunayake, for which the U. S. Development Loan Fund has authorized a long-term loan. Simultaneously, steps will be taken to develop internal air transport by the construction of an air strip at Anuradhapura and the completing of the provision of facilities at the Batticaloa air strip.

Special emphasis will be paid to the extension of postal delivery and counter services in the rural areas. With the development of the internal air service it will be possible to extend the internal air mail system and this is being considered. The question of adopting a Sinhala Telegraph Code is under examination by a committee of experts and action is being taken to obtain a Sinhala Teleprinter.

In budgeting, one is constantly faced with the question of what proportion of the available resources should be directed to social services, which one might call "Human Investment" and what proportion should be utilized for "Material investment". The

answer to this question depends, of course, on the demands of a particular situation at a particular time. But it is true that investment in material resources cannot be fully productive unless accompanied by adequate investment in health and education.

In order that the man-power requirements of economic development could be met, emphasis is being given to the teaching of science and to courses in practical education. Provision has been made for the teaching of science in our schools, for the training of teachers for that purpose and for the establishment of science laboratories. A Science Teachers' Training College is to be established at Thihariya near Veyangoda with U. S. aid.

A number of multilateral schools are to be established and courses in practical education provided as alternatives to academic education. In the establishment of these schools, the traditional arts and crafts of the various areas as well as the needs of the country from the point of view of economic development will be influencing factors.

Technical Schools

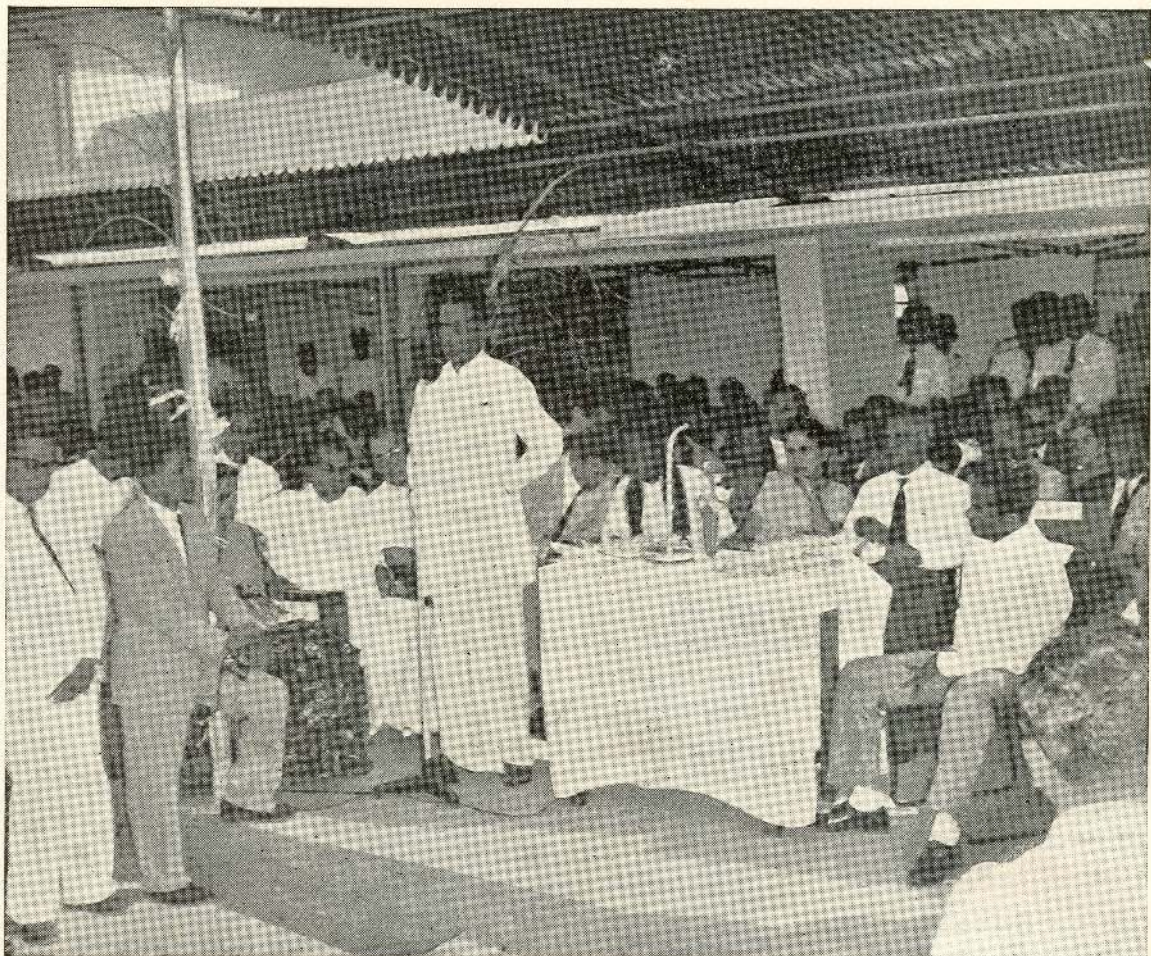
In the next financial year the Institute of Practical Technology at Katubedde will be brought up to full working capacity. It is also hoped that the establishment of Trade Schools in Colombo will be speeded up and steps are to be taken to establish Junior Technical Schools at Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and in the suburbs of Colombo.

I am inclined to the view that the shortage of trained staff experienced by the Health Department may be due to the fact that the

existing staff is not being used to the best advantage. There is an admitted shortage in certain categories, particularly nurses. While, therefore, steps are being taken to meet the shortage of Nurses by the construction of more Training Schools and by giving effect to a scheme which will enable minor nursing grades to qualify as nurses in due course, I have appointed a committee of Treasury and departmental officers, under the Chairmanship of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, to examine the staffing problems of the Health Department and to make recommendations in regard to how best present needs could be satisfied with existing staff and to see what other steps should be taken to meet any serious shortage of particular categories of personnel. The committee will also review present health programmes. Steps will be taken subsequently on the findings of the committee to provide any immediate additions of staff that may be necessary.

Funds have also been provided for intensifying the environmental sanitation programme and for control action in the field of communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis, filariasis and typhoid.

In keeping with the Government's declared policy of encouraging the development of Ayurveda, provision has been made for the construction of an Ayurvedic Hospital at Anuradhapura, and for commencing building operations on the second stage of the development scheme for the Hospital of Indigenous Medicine in Colombo. A new Indigenous Medical Act will also be placed before the House very soon, which will give the needed statutory backing for this development.



Ceylon's Second Sugar Factory was opened by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, early in October. Picture shows the inauguration ceremony in progress. The Minister of Industries, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, is addressing the gathering

Second Sugar Factory Opened

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, declared open on October 2 the second sugar factory at Kantalai. The first one was opened earlier at Gal Oya.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister thanked the Czechoslovakian and Polish technicians who had assisted in installing the factory. She said that the setting up of the factory was a great achievement,

considering the fact that the area was previously covered with thick jungle. She added that it was her late husband who conceived the idea of opening the project.

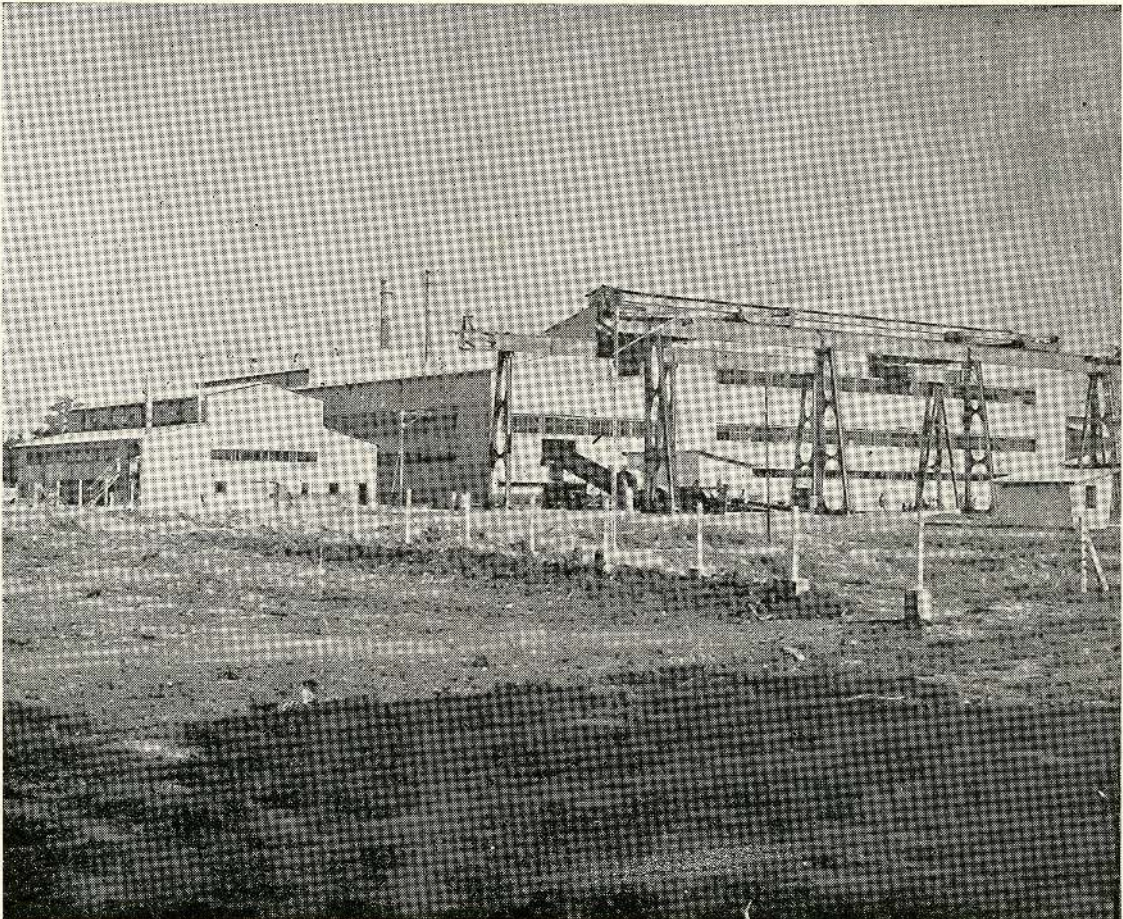
The Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva, who spoke earlier, said that the factory would provide employment for 3,000. He said that for a start 2,000 acres had been brought under

sugar cane cultivation. He thanked the Czechoslovakian and Polish Governments for their assistance in making the factory a reality.

The Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, thanked the former Minister of Industries, Mr. William de Silva, for having initiated work on the project. He exhorted the Kantalai colonists to co-operate to make the project a success.

The Chairman of the Kantalai Sugar Corporation, Mr. N. S. Perera, appealed to the workers to consider the factory their own and to give their full co-operation.

The Czechoslovakian Ambassador, Dr. S. L. Simovic, said that the policy of his Government was to help under-developed countries. His Government was prepared to render more assistance to Ceylon in the form of machinery which would contribute to the economic development of Ceylon.



Outside view of the Kantalai Sugar Factory

Trends in Modern Sinhalese Literature

H. L. D. MAHINDAPALA

THE contemporary Sinhalese writer lifts his pen, pauses and then looks Westwards: for it is the trend among them to write in the Western *genre*. This is not confined to only a high-brow pitch but is even prevalent at low-brow level. While the high-brow novelists are interpreting Western themes—mainly Freudian psychology and Marxian sociology—the low-brows, not to be outdone, are churning out paperback thrillers replete with sex, sadism and murder. The poets are fighting doggedly in their fields to break loose from the traditional rhymes, metres and four-line stanzas into free verse. In these new voices of poetry one notices the ghostly touch of Eliot, Pound and E.E. Cummings—to mention only a few at random.

This trend marks a complete break away from the historical tradition. Down the ages it has been the tradition to look Northwards into the sub-continent of India, for artistic and spiritual sustenance. In fact every significant cultural wave that rose in India rolled down the sub-continent and left Ceylon drenched with its bubbling froth. These political, religious and cultural waves sometimes lashed violently on the shores of Ceylon and, according to the natural laws in the ocean of history, receded—but not before it had left its indelible imprint on the corresponding movements in Ceylon. Then with the advent of Western colonizers, Ceylon succumbed to the new influence of the West. After three successive Western rules—Portuguese, Dutch and British in its historical order—Ceylon settled finally for the British way of life.

Under this influence new vistas opened up before the Sinhalese writer. But he did not jump to take these new roads the moment it opened up. It took some time for the writer to tread these paths. This was mainly because he did not have an audience who would readily snap up his books. For generations the

reading public had been seeped in purely religious (i.e. Buddhist) texts. To wean them away from it to a purely mundane literature the ground had to be prepared.

A Pioneer

This task was performed successfully by Mr. Piyadasa Sirisena, acknowledged as the father of the Sinhalese novel. He adopted the Western detective to suit the cultural and religious ethos of the times. He injected huge doses of religion and Sinhalese culture into these detective fictions. His hero, private-eye Wickramapala, sleuthed for lost fortunes and people. But he was more than a hired hack sniffing the scent with his nose to the ground. He was the champion of the traditional religious and cultural values. Wickramapala was anti-Christian, anti-Western and an anti-colonial thinker who pleaded for the resurgence of Buddhist and Sinhalese culture.

This technique appealed to the conservative reading public who had utter contempt for the 'novel'. These Brahmans of literature, who sincerely believed in the sacredness of religious texts, still consider the 'novel' as an untouchable element of Sinhalese literature, as something that corrupts the mind and as something that wields a pernicious influence on the rising generations. But Mr. Sirisena's technique of educative entertainment and persuasive propaganda overcame this obstacle. Besides, it voiced the aspirations of the people awakening to the new force of nationalism.

Once the trail had been blazed other writers came swarming down the road. The road was growing broader and easy. Gradually the novel ceased to be didactic or even to be a medium for religious and cultural propaganda. Instead it took to romances laden with village Romeos and Juliets

working out their destinies in well-woven plots. Some writers unashamedly lifted the plots from Western novels and transplanted them in a local setting. Some others took to translations.

All this activity gave the novel the impetus it needed for its growth. The reading public too got acclimatised to the new influence of the Western *genre*. It was in this atmosphere that W. A. Silva, the romantic novelist, blossomed. Though he is dead now his novels (surveys reveal) are still the most popular among the Sinhalese reading public. All the ingredients—plots, purple prose, well-defined characters, romanticism and the idyllic charm of village life—are woven into his novels. To the average Sinhalese reader this is something nearer to his heart and mind than the imported culture of the West. To him, peering into the id, ego and the libido of a man is not only something alien but excruciatingly abominable. This is why the crop of young writers influenced by the depth-probers of the West are continuously running into troubled waters. This school of writers derive their support from the University educated elite who staunchly defend these writings as landmarks in Sinhalese literature. Thus Gunadasa Amerasekera, a promising young writer, raised a hornet's nest when he published his latest novel "Yali Upannemi" (Born Again). His central theme is the delicate mother-son relationship and when the naive public learned (if I may quote Freud) that "it is the fate of every man to direct his sex energies first towards his mother" the shock became too loaded to bear. In prudish disgust the reader rants and revolts against it and condemns such literature as vulgar, crude and obscene. This battle is bound to continue for generations to come. Perhaps when the winds of opinion have veered strongly to accepting these notions, the books may be received favourably. The storm over this book, however, has died. But in its wake all the books were swept off the bookstalls!

This intellectual, depth-probing school was primarily fathered by Mr. Martin Wickramasinghe. Today he holds the rank of the president in the republic of Sinhalese letters. This 'elder statesman' has had long and distinguished career in the realms of Sinhalese literature. He pioneered the intellectual school by introducing anthropology, psychology and sociology and other allied sciences into literature. In short, his was the scientific approach. He was a versatile journalist, and a popular science writer.

His first great contribution to this school of fiction was "Gam Peraliya" (Change in the Villages). This novel runs like a social documentary, analysing the forces that were gradually changing the face of villages. It presented the change of a social structure, namely, the change-over from the feudal to the capitalist. As told through the plotless story in "Gam Peraliya" the feudal families of Muhandiram Kaisaruwatte's were on the decline. Their wealth and power were disintegrating. Instead the new petit-bourgeois class with an efficient but ruthless system, were rising to take the place of decadent feudal families.

Another Major Work

This was followed by another major work titled "Yuganthaya" (End of the Era). In it the forces of the rising masses are pitted against the imperialists and the native capitalists. It is an anti-colonial and pro-socialist novel. Both novels more or less are social studies depicting the forces at work at the roots of a changing social structure.

Other writers in the field were mainly influenced by the French or Russian school of writing. The influence of the English school was confined strictly to translations. There were quite a crop of translators who rendered into Sinhalese practically all the pre-Victorian novelists like Dickens, the Bronte sisters and Lord Lytton. The translations are still progressing. But the Russian and French school of writers flourished mainly in the short story—a medium that

grew in popularity as it was much in demand by the newspapers and magazines. Perhaps the most outstanding short story writer is Mr. G. B. Senanayake. His output was very limited. Yet what he produced bore the stamp of a clever craftsman. Relating everyday experiences, he would build up a story of powerful emotion. His stories were in the atmospheric *genre* of Anton Tchekov.

One important school of writing that was respected by the classical scholars was the pure 'hela' school of Munidasa Kumaranatunga. He advocated the use of pure Sinhalese style. This school had a following in little pockets but never gathered enough strength to make it powerful. However, he was one of those who pioneered in the field of fairy tales. This was later followed by Mr. G. B. Senanayake.

In the fields of drama and poetry too there are significant trends. Particularly in the field of drama there are new developments and adaptation of traditional techniques to suit the modern stage. Though these are vast fields to cover, one generalization that could be made is that even in these spheres the influence of the West is felt deeply. Surveying the field in one glance one may conclude that the Western influence has come to stay. This, however, is a familiar pattern in any culture. Foreign elements creep in. The native artist borrows it and blends it harmoniously with the local culture. Out of this process have emerged the great cultures of the world. Perhaps we may not produce a great classical culture but this is precisely the process that is going on now.



The Burmese trade delegation, which arrived in Ceylon recently, has talks with the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne (presiding at table) and other Ceylon Government officials.

Foreign Affairs

THE Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, left for London by plane on September 18, to attend the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, who is also his private Secretary.

The Minister returned to Ceylon on September 25, in order to be present at the Bandaranaike commemoration ceremonies the following day.

Ceylon at United Nations

A signal honour was paid to Ceylon recently when her Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, Sir Claude Corea, was elected as Chairman of the all-important Political Committee. Sir Claude received congratulations on his election from all sections of the General Assembly.

Food Pact with U. S.

Ceylon agreed on September 30th to purchase up to Rs. 24.2 million of wheat flour

from the United States under American Public Law 480, with most of the rupees to be returned to Ceylon in loans or grants for economic development and the remainder to be spent in Ceylon for other purposes.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, the Honourable T. B. Ilangaratne, and Mr. Bernard Gufler, American Ambassador. Loading of the wheat flour into ships at American ports is expected to start at an early date.

More than Rs. 13.3 million of the Rs. 24.2 million to be accumulated from the sale of the flour will be made available by the United States to the Government of Ceylon for development projects. Of this Rs. 13.3 million, Rs. 7.2 million will be provided in the form of a long-term loan and Rs. 6.1 million will be given as a grant.

About Rs. 6 million will be available to promote Ceylon and American investments in the private sector. The remainder will be used by the United States in Ceylon for purchase of supplies and other purposes.

This is the fourth purchase of food commodities from America by Ceylon in the last three years. Under prior purchases, Rs. 22.6 million in loans and Rs. 25.2 million in grants have been made available to the Ceylon Government for development projects. In addition, nearly Rs. 25 million have been made available for loans to private investors in the country.

Justice Minister leaves for Nigeria

The Minister of Justice, Mr. S. P. C. Fernando, left for Nigeria recently, to represent Ceylon at the Independence Celebrations of Nigeria, which will take place from 26th September to 3rd October, 1960.

At the conclusion of the Independence Celebrations in Nigeria, the Minister will proceed to Ghana to meet the Ceylon High Commissioner in Ghana who has invited him, and also to meet Ceylonese in Ghana.

The Minister while in Nigeria and Ghana will make a special study of the African

problems. He will then proceed to London where he will make a special study of the procedure relating to civil and criminal appeals and examine how far the expeditious methods, which are obtainable in U. K., could be made available to Ceylon.

Burmese Trade Delegation

Trade talks between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of Burma opened on September 27, at the Food Division of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Union Place, Colombo.

The following is the full text of the speech made by the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, the Hon'ble T. B. Ilangaratne, in welcoming the Burmese delegation.

"My first duty is to offer you, Mr. Deputy Minister, and the Burmese delegation a very cordial welcome to this little Island of ours. I believe that some of you have already visited our country in the past, but there may be others who may be visiting it for the first time, and I am sure that they will find many things to interest them and we hope to make the stay of the Burmese delegation as pleasant as possible. I need hardly recall the ties of neighbourliness and friendship that have bound our two countries and the two peoples together from the hoary past. Our religious and cultural links come down from ancient times, as well as our mutual helpfulness through trade. Even during the period in which both our countries came under the yoke of foreign domination, cultural and commercial relations were continued as best as was possible under the circumstances. About the same time we both emerged as free countries—free to co-operate in every sphere for the upliftment of our peoples. We have now had more than twelve years of such co-operation and the assistance given to our country by Burma during the immediate post-war years to relieve the food shortage here is always gratefully remembered.



An aid agreement was recently signed between the U. S. A. and Ceylon. The Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, signed the agreement on behalf of the Ceylon Government, and the U. S. Ambassador in Ceylon, Mr. Earnard Guffer, on behalf of the U. S. A.

“For many years Burma has been our largest supplier in the most important food commodity for Ceylon, and this tradition was broken only in 1953 when we had to go to other sources for larger supplies of rice, and that too because Burmese rice production was slow in recovering and she found it somewhat difficult to supply the greater part of our requirements. I am glad to say that, with the signing of the Four-year Trade Agreement last year, we have again come to look to Burma for the greater part of our import needs in respect of rice. In this connection, I must not fail to mention that we ourselves have launched upon a policy of increased rice production in order that we may not trouble others so much in regard to our future imports. Nevertheless, Burma rice, being the rice which the Ceylon consumer has been accustomed to for a long time, will be on our import programme for many years to come ; perhaps even after we become self-sufficient.

With our population increasing at a heavy rate, as well as the populations in other countries of South-East Asia, I have no doubt that the demand for rice will increase year by year and the further recovery of rice production in Burma would help the economy not only of Burma but also of the importing countries as well. I don't want at this stage to enter into a controversy on a theory that rice eating itself promotes a higher birth rate.

“The negotiations which commence today will be carried on between the officials on both sides. But there are one or two matters which I would wish to refer to in a general way. The Government of Burma is, I am sure, aware of the importance we attach to the price of rice, for the reason that rice is a heavily subsidised commodity in this country. Much of our internal economy is tied up with the consumer price of rice and

this has made the Government to confer upon the consumer a larger subsidy benefit. In order to avoid our incurring too large a commitment on subsidies, which is bound to cripple our development activities, it is natural for us to expect to buy rice at the cheapest possible price, as well as to buy the least expensive qualities of rice. We should of course be very happy if there is a possibility of our buying your best quality rice at the lowest quality price. We do not forget that the rice industry has always loomed large in the export economy of Burma and it would be natural for Burma to expect the best possible income from her rice. However, I must say that Burma has been helpful to us in the past and I hope that in the forthcoming negotiations the Burmese Delegation will endeavour to extend the same helpfulness.

Security of Supply

“The other matter is in relation to the question of security of supply. Ceylon has seldom had any occasion to complain in regard to the prompt implementation of past contracts for the supply of rice. In fact, we have always preferred a Government to Government contract, not only because we thought that we could get favourable terms but also that there would be security of supply. I understand that this year there have been some difficulties in arranging the regular delivery of rice, and I hope that they were due to some unforeseen factors. Whatever may have been the reason for delays in shipments, my Government's faith in dealings on a Government to Government basis is unshaken. The vast majority of the people of this country, and I have no doubt that it is the same with the Burmese people, believe in a socialist programme for the amelioration of their conditions and it is, therefore, my Government's policy to conduct trade in the basic items of necessities on a socialist basis.

I am sure the Government of Burma also share this view. I hope that the appropriate Ministry in Burma would, in future, do its best to smooth out any little difficulties that might arise from time to time in the implementation of contracts. I have been told by my officials that the completion of the balance outstanding on the contracts for 1960 has become very urgent, and that this matter will be taken up first in these discussions.

“The other matter which may also be discussed in detail by the two Delegations is the question of mutuality in our trade. As you will observe, the importation of Ceylon products into Burma has been very little for a long time. This point, I understand, was raised last year between my predecessor in office and the then Minister of Trade Development. As a result of the discussion, Burma agreed to buy Ceylon tea on a small scale and also a sizeable quantity of Ceylon coconut oil. I would very much like the two delegations to go a little deeper into this question of future trade expansion in order to ensure greater facilities for Ceylon products in the Burmese market.

Study of Buddhism

On the recommendation of the Buddhist Religious Affairs Advisory Committee, the Department of Cultural Affairs has drawn up a scheme whereby Buddhist Monks are to be exchanged between Ceylon and other Theravada Buddhist countries for study and research in Buddhism.

Under this scheme one bhikku is to be sent to each of the countries—Burma, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia—and in turn Ceylon gets one scholar from each of these countries. Each scholarship under this scheme is tenable for a period of two years. These scholars are expected to conduct research in Tripitaka, Theravada Buddhism, Buddhist Civilization, etc. This scheme is to be implemented early next year.

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